

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-01

SIL-01 IO-10 AGR-05 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-03 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /101 W

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P R 280005Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4993

INFO USUN NEW YORK 826

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, XM, MX

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

DEPT PLS PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

REF: STATE 260822

1. RECENT STATEMENTS BY VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS
INDICATE THAT JOINT PROPOSAL FOR NEW LATIN AMERICAN
ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION (SISTEMA ECONOMICA LATINO-AMERICANA,
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SELA) ENJOYS FULL SUPPORT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

2. SPEAKING IN MEXICO CITY ON NOVEMBER 22, VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL ROMAN ESCOBAR SALOM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY, AFFIRMED THAT IN HIS COUNTRY THERE WAS GREAT INTEREST IN THE CREATION OF SELA. MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA, WHO WAS ALSO ATTENDING VENEZUELAN-MEXICAN CULTURAL AFFAIR, ADDED THAT MEXICO AND VENEZUELA HAVE AGREED TO BE CO-CHAMPIONS OF SELA. RABASA NOTED THAT SELA WOULD SERVE AS FORUM FOR LA COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION ON IMPORTANT MATTERS OF ECONOMIC POLICY. RABASA STRESSED THAT SELA WAS NOT ANTI-U.S., BUT RATHER WAS PRO-LATIN AMERICAN, SERVING TO PRESENT A SOLID LA FRONT IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

3. DURING COURSE PRESS INTERVIEW, RABASA ADDED THAT IN A SHORT TIME, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY ING. HORACIO FLORES DE PENA, ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL, WOULD EMBARK ON A LA TOUR IN SUPPORT OF SELA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOV COUNTERPART OF ING. FLORES, ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR MEXICAN OFFICIAL, WOULD FORM A SECOND TEAM TO TOUR LA ON SELA'S BEHALF. DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SELA, SUCH AS THE HEADQUARTERS SITE, WOULD BE DECIDED AFTER MORE COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN JOINING, RABASA CONCLUDED. (COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 27 WITH LIC. ALFONSO CEBREROS, FLORES' PRIVATE SECRETARY, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED THAT UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE BY PRESIDENT, MEXICAN MINISTER WOULD NOT MAKE TRIP UNTIL AFTER MEXICAN HOLIDAY SEASON (DEC. 16-JAN. 6). CEBREROS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE EMBOFF WITH ITINERARY WHEN PLANS WERE FIRM).

4. EMB COML COUN, DURING NOVEMBER 26 CALL ON JULIO FAESLER, DIRECTOR MEXICAN FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE, WAS TREATED TO HALF-HOUR LECTURE ON HISTORICAL DOMINATION OF LDCS BY DCS BECAUSE OF FORMER'S LACK OF ORGANIZATION. IN CONCLUDING THAT FUTURE TREND WAS NOW IN FAVOR OF LDCS, MEXICAN OFFICIAL SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT LDCS WERE IN FACT GETTING ORGANIZED AT LAST.

5. DURING EMB ECON COUN'S NOVEMBER 27 CALL ON DIRECTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COORDINATION, FOREIGN OFFICE (SEPTTEL), MEXICAN OFFICIAL TOOK MORE RESTRICTED VIEW OF SELA. THE FONOFF OFFICIAL (DIAZ THOME), STATED THAT SELA WAS "NOT A BAD IDEA" IN THAT, WHETHER IT WORKED OUT FORMALLY OR NOT, IT WOULD FOCUS LA ATTENTION ON AREAS OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SELA MIGHT BEGIN WITH ONLY TWO OR THREE OTHER COUNTRIES, IN ADDITION TO MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, PARTICIPATING. THESE COUNTRIES

WOULD LOOK TOWARD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN ON BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL BASIS AMONG SELA MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT EARLY POST-WAR EFFORTS IN EUROPE BY SPAAK AND OTHERS TO FORM ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WAS SOMEWHAT ANALAGOUS TO PRESENT EFFORTS. SPAAK, A BELGIAN, KNEW THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD NEVER BE SELF-SUFFICIENT, AND COULD BENEFIT FROM CERTAIN FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE SAME VIEW IS HELD BY MEXICAN AND VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS.

6. WHEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT FLORES DE LA PENA'S TRAVEL PLANS (SEE PARA 3 ABOVE), DIAZ THOME CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT FLORES WOULD BE ON THE ROAD BEFORE EARLY NEXT YEAR, ADDING THAT LA WOULD BE SPLIT UP BETWEEN GROUP HEADED BY FLORES, WHICH WOULD VISIT, INTER ALIA, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND PANAMA, AND HIGH-LEVEL GOV GROUP, WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES.
BRANDIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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